

COVID-19

SNOHOMISH COUNTY DAILY BRIEFING



Wednesday, August 19, 2020

VIDEO: NOT ALL FACE COVERS ARE EQUAL IN FIGHTING COVID- 19

New research suggests that some lightweight face covers, particularly neck gaiters or buffs, appear less effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19. The Joint Information Center prepared a brief social media video highlighting the latest guidance.

Video: Not all face covers appear equal in fighting COVID-19

[New research](#) suggests that some lightweight face covers, particularly neck gaiters or buffs, appear less effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19. Dr. Chris Spitters, Health Officer for Snohomish Health District, [on Tuesday explained](#) the findings:

"We know that wearing cloth face coverings is an effective part of the overall strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to help us reopen our economy and schools. That said, the type of face covering does make a difference. For the general population, a quality cotton or cotton-blend face covering that covers that nose and mouth and has multiple layers appear to work best.

"Last week, Duke University released a study that looked at a variety of different face coverings extending in quality from at the high end medical grade facemasks down through cloth facemasks and then including lightweight what are called neck gaiters or buffs and found that those latter items, the neck gaiters or buffs, are not as effective as face coverings.

"Though they're convenient, lightweight gaiters, especially the fleece ones, may actually increase the risk of transmission because they appear to take larger respiratory droplets coming out of the nose and mouth and split them up into smaller pieces of droplets that are able to stay afloat in the air and travel further and remain afloat for longer periods of time."

The Joint Information Center prepared a brief social media video highlighting the latest guidance.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

Which Face Covering is Best?



#1: Neck Gaiter



#2: Cloth Face Cover



#3: Cloth Bandana



EDMONDS CONTINUES CURBSIDE DINING, WALKABLE MAIN STREET INTO OCTOBER

"Walkable Main Street", opening up Edmonds' Main Street to pedestrians only on Saturdays and Sundays, will continue until the weekend of October 10th-11th. And new this week – restaurants throughout downtown may also use adjacent parking spaces during the week to provide more outdoor dining options.

REMOTE SCHOOL LEARNING PLANS NOW IN PLACE ACROSS SNOHOMISH COUNTY

All Snohomish County public schools, and most private schools, plan to start the school year with distanced learning this September.

Edmonds continues curbside dining, walkable Main Street into October



Residents enjoy it. Restaurants and retailers enjoy it. So the City of Edmonds this week announced more opportunities for outdoor dining and shopping. "Walkable Main Street," opening up Main Street to pedestrians only on Saturdays and Sundays, will continue until the weekend of October 10th-11th. And new as this week – restaurants throughout Downtown may also use adjacent parking spaces during the week to provide more outdoor dining options.

Like many cities in the greater Puget Sound -- including Snohomish, Enumclaw and Bellevue -- Edmonds restaurants will now be able to serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner in curbside areas so long as they provide a highly visible and protected space. Each curbside dining area will be bracketed by water-filled Jersey barriers, with protective fencing parallel to the travel lane, per City guidelines.

This designation is open to all restaurants, not just restaurants on Main Street. The new option goes into effect immediately and will continue through the weekend of October 10th-11th.

"This temporary program is intended to help address this particularly challenging time for our city's restaurants as they struggle with the new restrictions that reduce indoor dining options," said Edmonds Mayor Mike Nelson. "Also we have learned people prefer the safer option of dining outdoors when given the choice."

For more information, see the city's [Facebook post](#).

Remote school learning plans now in place across Snohomish County

Marysville School District [announced the approval](#) of their Continuous Learning 2.0 Plan on this week, joining all Snohomish County public schools, and most private schools, to start with distanced learning this September.

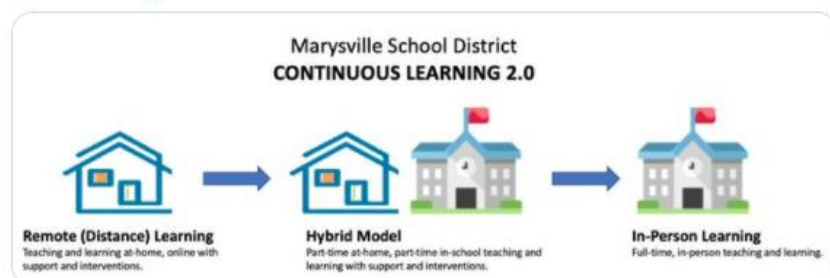
Each district is finding ways to connect students to computers and internet. Computer pick-up drive thrus and access through partnerships such as the Comcast "Internet Essentials Partnership Program" ensure all students are prepared for virtual schooling (some districts such as Darrington and Sultan are providing some students with the greatest need for additional support having some onsite instruction).

Some districts such as Darrington will provide cellular hotspots or downloadable flash drives with content for families without internet access capabilities. Find more information for each school district here: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1592/School-Districts>



Marysville SD
@msd25

Continuous Learning 2.0 Plan Approved msd25.org/article/289866...



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INSLEE ISSUES PROCLAMATION REQUIRING AGRICULTURAL WORKER TESTING

A new gubernatorial proclamation now requires agricultural employers to test their workforce broadly when health officials identify an outbreak that passes certain thresholds.

Inslee issues proclamation requiring agricultural worker testing

Gov. Jay Inslee today issued an update to [Proclamation 20-57](#), "Concerning the Health of Agricultural Workers." The proclamation now requires agricultural employers to test their workforce broadly when health officials identify an outbreak that passes certain thresholds.

Since the governor first issued [Proclamation 20-57](#) on May 28, the total number of cases in Washington has increased from 21,138 to 67,721, an average rate of more than 500 new cases per day. Many of these are appearing at farms and food-packing facilities, where employees often work, travel, and live together in close contact.

"There is no question that we need to escalate our response to this pandemic, and we know that additional focus must be placed on agricultural workplaces," Inslee said. "From the data, we know that people of color have been disproportionately impacted by this pandemic, and while we have much work to do to address that, this is one step in the right direction."

In addition to the governor's proclamation, Sec. of Health John Wiesman concurrently directed an [order](#) to Gebbers Farms, following a significant outbreak among their operations and the subsequent deaths of three of their Okanogan employees. The order will require all Gebbers employees to be tested within the coming weeks, and the effort will be led by the Department of Health's epidemiology team.

"Testing is one of the critical tools we have available to slow the spread of COVID-19," Wiesman said. "With the large and disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on agricultural workers, it is important that we come together to quickly identify cases, including those who may be asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic, so we can ensure they have a safe work environment."

Inslee's proclamation furthers his commitment to ensure the health and welfare of Washington's agricultural workers and follows his August 10 [announcement](#) of two relief funds and a commitment to additional PPE distribution.

"Agricultural workers are some of the hardest-working people of our state. Their labor is integral to Washington's economy, and they bring to our table the many nutritious foods that Washington has to offer," Inslee said. "We call upon all agricultural employers to join us in proactively safeguarding against workplace outbreaks. When employers are unable to do so on their own, local health jurisdictions and state Department of Health will be ready to intervene."

Read the full proclamation [here](#).

Read the full order [here](#).



HEALTH ALERT! YOUTH WHO USE VAPES, CIGARETTES OR BOTH AT HIGHER RISK FOR COVID INFECTION

A recent study found that young adults age 13-24 who ever used vapes were five times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID and those who used vapes and cigarettes (dual use) were seven times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID-19.

Health Alert! Youth who use vapes, cigarettes or both at higher risk for COVID infection



The Snohomish Health District points to a [recent study](#) which surveyed youth and young adults age 13-24 found that those who ever used vapes were five times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID than those who didn't use vapes; and teens who used vapes and cigarettes (dual use) were seven times more likely to be diagnosed with COVID than those who used no tobacco products.

MISS BROWSING THE SHELVES IN THE LIBRARY?

Sno-Isle Libraries make it possible for library staff to browse for you. See the information at right.

Miss browsing the shelves in the library?

Sno-Isle Libraries makes it possible for library staff to browse for you.

Go to [Library Picks](https://www.sno-isle.org/library-picks), and answer a few questions and the library system will put five items on hold for you or respond with recommendations for digital materials. Please be sure to include contact information on the online form.



WSDOT URGES EXTRA CARE WITH FIRE DURING PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has made it even more challenging to WSDOT workers who focus on reducing brush fire risk. Link to the full blog at right.

WSDOT urges extra care with fire during pandemic

The state Department of Transportation is asking people to be particularly careful during this year's wildfire season. The COVID-19 crisis has made it even more challenging to WSDOT workers who focus on reducing brushfire risks, the agency explained in a [recent blog post](#):

"This year has been an unusual one, for many reasons. Put simply, few things are the same as they've been in the past.

"But one thing that is the same? Fire season has arrived, as it so often does this time of year. As we've seen the past several weeks, fires along our roadsides have increased as we've gotten into the dry weather of summer. It's an unwelcome return as now more than ever, we need the public's help in preventing in small sparks that could ignite into a full-fledged blaze.

"Why now more than ever? Well, again, it's not a usual year.

"Our maintenance crews work hard to keep areas near roadways mowed for fire season to reduce brushfire risks. COVID-19 pandemic has affected that work, and now crews are furiously trying to catch up. Add to that, important but bulkier coronavirus safety equipment, means keeping up with all the maintenance needs throughout the state is a monumental task."

Read more [here](#).

NEW DASHBOARD TRACKS PPE DISTRIBUTION IN WASHINGTON

A new statewide dashboard that tracks distribution of PPE is now available online. Link at right.

REMINDER: UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION IS TAXABLE, IRS SAYS

The IRS is reminding people receiving unemployment compensation that they can have tax withheld from their benefits now to help avoid owing taxes on this income when they file their federal income tax return next year.



Washington State DOT @wsdot · 46m

Good morning. It's another dry, warm day out there so please continue to do your part to help prevent roadside fires:

- Dispose of flammable items properly
- Don't drive or park on dry grass
- Have extra water

More in our blog:



In an abnormal year, fire season returns as usual

The WSDOT Blog

wsdotblog.blogspot.com



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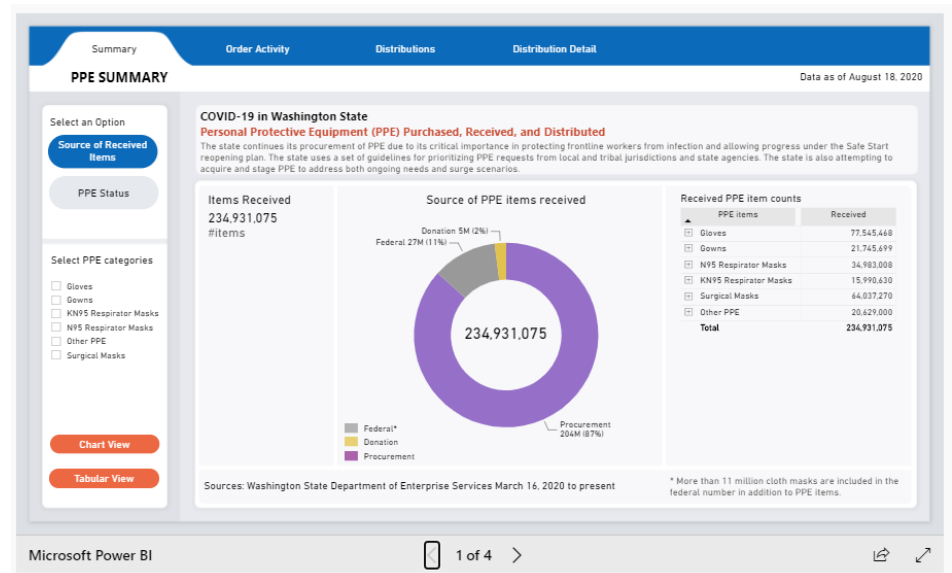


New dashboard tracks PPE distribution in Washington

A new statewide dashboard that tracks distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE) is now available online. The dashboard provides a snapshot of PPE distribution, including order activity, source, types of items, and more. Under the "Distribution Detail" tab, the dashboard also allows people to view number and type of PPE distributed broken down by county, state agency, or Tribal nation.

The state already has distributed more than 100 million pieces of PPE during the COVID-19 crisis

See the [dashboard here](#).



Reminder: Unemployment compensation is taxable, IRS says



file their federal income tax return next year.

By law, unemployment compensation is taxable and must be reported on a 2020 federal income tax return. Taxable benefits include any of the special unemployment compensation

With millions of Americans now receiving taxable unemployment compensation, many of them for the first time, the Internal Revenue Service is reminding people receiving unemployment compensation that they can have tax withheld from their benefits now to help avoid owing taxes on this income when they

authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, enacted this spring.

Withholding is voluntary. Federal law allows any recipient to choose to have a flat 10% withheld from their benefits to cover part or all of their tax liability. To do that, fill out [Form W-4V](#), Voluntary Withholding Request (PDF), and give it to the agency paying the benefits. Don't send it to the IRS. If the payor has its own withholding request form, use it instead.

See the [full press release](#) for more information and links resources.

CBP SEIZES UNAUTHORIZED COVID-19 MEDICATION

Since the beginning of July, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers and Agriculture Specialists in Seattle seized a total of eight shipments of unauthorized influenza treatments being marketed to treat COVID-19.

CBP seizes unauthorized COVID-19 medication



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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CBP's Port of Seattle has seized nearly 2,400 pills since July. The pills are unauthorized influenza treatments being marketed to treat COVID-19.

The pace of these seizures is increasing in the Seattle area, and the seizures came from both express consignment shipments as well as passengers at the airport and totaled 2,376 pills.

"In the midst of the pandemic, it pains me to see companies willing to sell modern day, placebo-effect remedies, just to make some extra money at the expense of the American people. Seattle Area Port Director Clay Thomas said. "CBP works every day to keep American consumers safe from false and misleading medical claims."

For more information see the [full press release](#).



CONFIRMED AND PROBABLE CASES OF COVID-19 IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY

Data on case counts are available on the Snohomish Health District [website](#) and the Washington State Department of Health [dashboard](#).

ESSENTIAL LINKS AND PHONE NUMBERS FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

- [Snohomish Health District](#)
- [Snohomish County](#)
- [Snohomish County COVID- 19 Response & Community Resource Hub](#)
- [Washington State](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- Snohomish County COVID-19 Phone Line: **425-388-3944**
- Línea telefónica COVID-19 del condado de Snohomish: **425-388-7120**
- Washington State COVID-19 Hotline: Call **1-800-525-0127** or text **211-211** for help.

Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 in Snohomish County (as of August 19, 2020)

| Case Count | Last Updated: 1:56 p.m. |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Confirmed | 5,888 (up 38 cases from 8/18) |
| Probable | 769 (up 31 cases from 8/18) |
| Deaths | 206 |

| Jurisdiction | Last Updated: 1:56 p.m. |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Arlington | 288 (220 recovered) |
| Bothell* | 479 (382 recovered) |
| Brier | 30 (26 recovered) |
| Darrington | 9 (<5 recovered) |
| Edmonds | 545 (444 recovered) |
| Everett | 1,936 (1,497 recovered) |
| Gold Bar | 15 (7 recovered) |
| Granite Falls | 46 (36 recovered) |
| Index | 0 |
| Lake Stevens | 301 (240 recovered) |
| Lynnwood | 1,068 (862 recovered) |
| Marysville | 569 (433 recovered) |
| Mill Creek | 108 (83 recovered) |
| Monroe | 255 (184 recovered) |
| Mountlake Terrace | 190 (156 recovered) |
| Mukilteo | 106 (89 recovered) |
| Snohomish | 413 (304 recovered) |
| Stanwood | 178 (145 recovered) |
| Sultan | 32 (24 recovered) |
| Tulalip | 48 (37 recovered) |
| Unknown/Other | <5 (<5 recovered) |
| Woodinville* | 24 (22 recovered) |
| Woodway | 13 (9 recovered) |

Numbers less than 5 are suppressed to protect medical privacy. Unknown includes cases still under investigation. *Counts are for portions in Snohomish County only.